

Prestonwood Connection

#5 Tell Me The Stories Of Jesus

A Story About The Future

Luke 12:35-48

February 15, 2006 • Dr. David McKinley

[Dr. McKinley, message, A Story About The Future]

...preview a lot of things and when I heard that on Saturday night there was no way I was going to a..., let it get away and not have an opportunity to be able to share it with you tonight and so I love that and I thought it was fabulous and a..., Bethany is a wonderful Christian a..., young lady, a student who is going to graduate this year and a..., is looking to a..., go to a..., Ouachita, I believe, to school, at least that's in her sights right now. They're praying about that. But a..., I do hope you'll pray for the Briscoe family as they walk across a year of very significant transition and a..., I know that a..., they are such a blessing to the life of our church as has all this praise team and instrumental team been tonight. Thank you guys for doin such a great job.

Okay, I want us to start tonight a..., by doing something that's a little bit out of the ordinary, something a little bit different, but a... something that's important. In front of you, you've got a pad that looks like this it says sermon notes. You don't have to use one of these, but I want everybody as best possible to get a piece of paper in front of you tonight because we're gonna start tonight by taking a test...a test...a quiz of sorts if you will.

And a..., while you're getting your paper together I have to tell you that it is very much my hope that the result that I get having administered this test will be better than the pastor that I read about who was trying to make a very serious and a very significant point in his message. He tried to do a message with an object lesson. He had 4 jars. In the first jar there was alcohol. In the second jar he had managed to fill it with smoke, cigarette smoke. The third jar was full of chocolate and the last one had some dirt, some soil. Excuse me have someone here who has reminded me that a..., we...when...when we grow things we have soil and not dirt. [slight congregation laughter] I learned that in that message, you know, I did a few weeks ago on the 4 kinds of dirt, what kind of dirt are you? A..., and I learned that it was all about soil, but anyway, this guy took an earthworm and in each of these jars he put an earthworm. He put one in the alcohol. He put one in the jar that had been captured and sealed with the smoke. He put one in the chocolate and he put one in the soil. Well, as he was preaching the message, one by one something began to happen. In fact the worm that was in the alcohol died, and the worm that was in the smoke

died, and the worm that was in the chocolate died. And of course, the worm that was in the soil was just thriving and living and so he got to the end of his message and he looked at the people and he said, "Now what have you learned today? What has this object lesson taught you?" And there was an old lady sitting in the back who stood up and said, "Preacher, I'll tell you what I've learned today." She said, "What I have learned today is this" she said, "as long you drink, smoke and eat chocolate you won't have worms." [pause for congregation laughter]

Well, I hope that my instruction to you tonight's a little bit better than that. It is in the classroom of God's tutorial that we often take tests first and learn lessons later. Unlike our educational system where we learn lessons and take a test, God usually gives us a test and then we learn the lesson. And tonight I wanna start with a test, because my prayer is that as a result of this test we will all learn a lesson. So are you ready? Here's the test. I want you to list, as quickly as you can, what you would consider to be the key words of the Christian life...key words of the Christian life. If you're describing something about the Christian life, what are the words, the concepts that you believe that are important for every believer to know? What every believer ought to know. Our pastor's doing a series on Sundays right now that he calls, *What Matters Most* or *What Really Matters*. And so if you're making that list quickly I want you to write down words that you feel like are...are important words, key words in the Christian life. [pause] Have you at least got one, maybe a half a dozen. [pause] Just another few seconds! [pause] All right stop! I want everybody to look up here. I wanna ask you tonight some questions. How many of you have faith as one of the words, okay, on you're a..., list there? Good, many of you put faith down. How bout prayer, anybody put prayer, is that a key word of the Christian life? A..., what about the word forgiveness? How bout salvation? Okay, good, that is the starting point of the Christian life, salvation. Giving, does anybody have giving on your list? Okay! How bout propitiation? [congregation laughter] Good okay, I'm just finding out where my theologians are tonight. Armenism, Calvinism anybody got those things down? Just curious, what have we got out there, what are you thinkin? Let me ask this question, how many of you wrote the word stewardship? Not one! No one wrote the word stewardship and I know why, it's not a very popular word in the Christian community. It's actually that word that we sort of like to forget. Someone has said:

"Two things will ruin a church, loose living and tight giving."

And it's true that one of the things that many times injures and impacts ministry is the fact that whenever we get near the subject of stewardship, we're sort of like the little boy who was in church when they were passing the offering plate and he looked up at the usher and he says, "Do you have a child's plate." Heh! You know, you just, there...there's something that makes us feel a little bit uncomfortable whenever we get near that subject of giving. Now, some of you did use the word giving. But there is a very significant difference between the word giving and the word stewardship. Now, stewardship as it relates to giving is a very important concept and it is something that needs to be taught and needs to be challenged in the

life of every believer. It was John D. Rockefeller who said:

"I would have never been able to tithe the first million dollars I gave, had I not first learned to tithe a \$1.50 a week."

And he said:

"There was something to be learned in the pattern of giving and stewardship that was learned in a small scale that ultimately impacted my life at a large scale."

And it was Cornel Sanders, Harlan Sanders, who once made this statement, he said:

"There's no good reason to be the richest man in the cemetery."

That's good wisdom isn't it? There's gonna come a day when it's not really gonna matter how much you made or how much you have cause it's all gonna be gone. But the purpose of my message tonight is not to preach on the subject of giving. The purpose of my message tonight is to address what I believe to be one of the most dynamic and one of the most transformational concepts in the whole of the Christian life and I personally believe that it is one of the most foundational and one of the most fundamental of all things that we can teach about the Christian experience. Now, we've been studying together the stories of Jesus and Jesus would often tell stories, called parables, in order to provide some specific instruction. The purpose of Jesus' stories was not just to tell people a good tale, a good yarn, it wasn't the emphasis on the fact that it might have been fictional, the emphasis on the fact of Jesus' stories was that they were all instructional. And Jesus told stories so that we could see in life the reality of spiritual truth and so in Luke chapter 12, beginning in verse 35 we read together something of one of the stories of Jesus that captures the essence of this concept that I want to share and to relate with you tonight and I wanna invite you to begin reading with me in Luke chapter 12 and verse 35. Jesus said:

³⁵"Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; ³⁶and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, and when he comes and knocks that they may open to him immediately."

Now, very quickly, you understand this is a scene where there's some action and movement. The idea is, is that He said I want you to be like servants who are sitting on go. Your waist is girded, literally that means your dressed, your lamp is burning and you're ready for what's next. Are you ready? That's what He's saying here. Rick, didn't you all do a tour, wasn't it Are You Ready? Last summer wasn't that the name of the tour, Are You Ready? And there's a sense in which Jesus opens this parable with the question and with the example of a group of servants who are ready and then He begins to provide a warning. He says in verse 37:

³⁷"Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find

watching. Assuredly, I say to you ~~that he will not...that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.~~ ³⁸ And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. ³⁹ But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would have come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming in an hour that you do not expect."

Are you ready? I love the way the Eugene Peterson expresses that last verse, verse 40 in The Message, he says this:

"So don't you be slovenly and careless. Just when you don't expect Him, the Son of Man will show up."

Now the call of this passage of Scripture is a call to live a future focused life. In fact that is one of the fundamental issues for every Christian, that we would live future focused lives, that we would live as we live every day in light of what is going to happen in history and in time when Christ comes again and that we would live every day in light of the reality of eternity.

For a number of years in my life I would often write in my journal and I would put two little initials, two letters every day "ET" and no, it wasn't extra terrestrial, it was eternity today. Am I going to live for eternity today? And I would often challenge myself in my prayer time, in my devotional life with that little...that little concept of "ET" eternity today and in much the same way Jesus is saying I want you to live your lives in such a way that you are ready. But, of course, immediately when we talk about being ready and when we talk about the return of Christ, the immediate reaction and response in the Christian community is, well at least twofold, one the one hand there are those who immediately begin to get anxious and fearful because they're not sure that they're ready, it stirs in them a...a concept, a question that says I don't know, I don't know if I'm really ready and so sometimes when we talk about this coming of Christ the result is deep within the heart there's a...a sense of uncertainty, a sense of anxiety and it's disruptive. For others, just the mention of the second coming of Christ begins to build up in them a passion, a drive, a desire for more knowledge. How do we know? What's happening? Are we living in the last days? What do we need to know? What do we need to study? A..., what are the concepts that are out there in Bible knowledge that will help me to...to know and to be prepared and to see that Christ is coming? Even today, I got an e-mail from someone about the new ~~"B" chip and or the new...not the "B" chip, but the chip that's gonna be put~~ in the human body that can manage to keep up with people and someone said, could this be the mark of the beast? And there are many people who when they hear things about the coming of Christ and thinking about getting ready they think preachers need to preach more and teachers need to teach more and we need to think more about the second coming of Christ. But whether it's in the realm of knowledge or in the realm of fear or anything in between, one of the greatest concerns of life is that concern of really

being ready and possibly being unprepared.

Have you ever had anything that you were supposed to do that you weren't prepared to do? That is one of the most unnerving feelings in all of the world. I did catch just a little bit of *American Idol* last night and one of the things that I saw as some of the *American Idol* participants were singing in group fashion last night is that some of the groups weren't ready. And what always happened when they got out there and tried to perform and sing in front of the judges when they weren't ready is that suddenly there was blame. Well, I didn't sing well because so and so in the group didn't help us get ready. And then there was shame and there was disappointment and there was confusion. Now you can watch the rest of that tonight when you get home a..., that is if you have "T-vo" cause I'm not gonna let you out in time, it's actually going on right now, but if you leave right now we're all gonna look at you. Okay? [congregation laughter] But I say all of that to say that it doesn't matter who you are or where you are, you don't have to be on the stage, one of the greatest fears of life is the fear of not being ready and so it's interesting to me that this very topic that I've addressed with you is the topic that Jesus was addressing when all of the sudden he was interrupted and look at the interruption beginning in verse 41:

Then Peter said to Him,...

Does it surprise you? Who would be the most like when he began to feel uncertain, to speak out among the disciples? It was Peter and it says:

Then Peter said to Him, "Lord do You speak this parable only to us,..."

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 are you talkin just to us or are you talkin to all of these people who are here? Peter was feeling the heat of the moment about those servants who were not prepared and he said Lord who are you talking to?:

And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise..."

Look at the word, right up there, it's highlighted, what is the word? Steward! Let's read that one more time together.

⁴¹*"Lord do You speak this parable to us or to all the people? ⁴²And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward whom his master will make him ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? Blessed is ~~that~~ service...that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has."*

The concept of stewardship! Let's continue:

⁴⁵*"But as that servant says in his heart. 'My master is delayed his coming.' And begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and to drink and to be drunk, ⁴⁶the master of that servant will come on a day*

when he's not looking for him, and an hour when he's not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him in his portion with the unbelievers. ⁴⁷ And that servant who he knew...who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. ⁴⁸ But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, he shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask them for more."

Here the Bible talks about that concept that I mentioned to you earlier, called stewardship. You see stewardship is not nearly so much about an aspect or an activity called giving, stewardship is about a role and an attitude in my life as a follower of Jesus Christ and every one of us who have received Christ are stewards of Jesus Christ. **THE QUESTION IS WHAT KIND OF STEWARD ARE YOU?** Are you a faithful steward or are you an unfaithful steward? Stewardship, a keep word, a central concept in the Christian life and therefore tonight I want us to examine this concept and I want you to see and discover with me tonight that it is a biblical thing, that it is a motivational thing, that it is a functional thing, that it is a practical thing and that it is a beneficial thing. And I pray that after tonight you will never again hear the word stewardship and just think about money. So you ready? Are you ready? [congregation response] Okay, good, I just wanted to be sure. Talkin about bein ready here, let's be sure. Here it is...

#1 It's a biblical thing, **STEWARDSHIP BEGINS WITH A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.** Now let's just go back, if we're gonna talk about this concept of stewards and stewardship let's begin at the foundation and the most biblical and the most basic of all the biblical foundations of stewardship is that stewardship begins with a personal relationship with God through Christ. Christianity in it's very core in essence is a personal matter between men and God and the Christian life is called a new life. When I receive Christ I begin a life that is called a new life. 2nd Corinthians, chapter 5 in verse 17:

...if anyone is in Christ, he's a new creature; old things have passed away; and all things have become new.

Therefore when I become a Christian, I take on the characteristic of a life that is called a new life in Christ and therefore all of my attention, affection and focus in life changes from what it was before to what it is and intended to be in Christ. Now this parable begins with a relationship that is already in existence. There is a relationship in verse 35 between a master and some servants, the master and the stewards. Now that's actually contrasted in that opening passage of Scripture between the master and the stewards and the master and the thieves. Did you notice that? Verse 35 and 36 talk about the master and the servants, but verse 39 talks about the master and the thieves. The servants are those who recognize that they have a new life and therefore they have a new Lord in life. Isn't that what salvation is, a new Lord? What does Romans 10:9 and 10 tells us?

that if you will confess with your mouth...

Say it together.

...the Lord Jesus...

You cannot become a Christian unless you are willing to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. The essence of Christianity is bowing the knee a... to Christ, turning from sin and confessing Him as your Lord and Savior. And so there is a new life and there is a new Lord and the Bible talks about masters and servants and in a very real sense Jesus Christ is my Master, He is my Lord and I am therefore His servant. And that is a part of a wonderful relationship that I now have with God. Before I was His servant and He was my Master I was a thief and he was the master. I lived my life without thought of God. But it was God that gave me the air that I breath, the health that I had, the life that I...that I know. All that I am and all that I have I've received from Him and that's why it's so important that you always look at the context of Scripture because if you go back up just a few verses you'll see that just before we get to this whole thing about the stewards we read about the fool. I preached about him last Wednesday night. The fool was the man who said I'm making so much money, I have so many crops and so few barns, I'm gonna tear down the barns, I'm gonna build bigger barns, I'm gonna do all this stuff with all these things that I have, it's all about me. And that parable ended with the statement:

"...you fool! Do you not know that tonight your soul will be required of you;..."

You see that man was a thief, that man was a man who took everything God gave him and tried to use it for himself, he never gave knowledge or acknowledgement to God. But these men are not that, these men are his servants and they have entered into a relationship with God and therefore they called Him Master. That is the defining moment that occurs in any person's life when they make what we commonly call a profession of faith. What is a profession of faith? It is saying, I now call Jesus my Lord and I have a new life in Christ. We give people an opportunity at the close of a service to come forward in an invitation and to respond and one of the decisions that is made week after week, thank God it's made in this church week after week, is that people make professions of faith in Jesus Christ. They call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ that they might be saved.

Now in the truest sense the profession of faith is actually clarified in baptism, it's not walking an aisle, it is praying and receiving Christ. Walking an aisle goes public, baptism thought says I am no longer what I was, the old person I was, my old life is crucified with Christ, I am now raised to walk in newness of life. Now baptism doesn't save, that's just water up there, that's just what you have in your ~~bapti...a...your baptism at home...your~~ bathtub at home. [congregation laughter] I mean you do take a baptism don't you every now and then? [more laughter] It's just like that water. And I tell every baptismal candidate this is not holy water, this

isn't magical water, when you go down under it you're not gonna find that your sins float off and gather with other sins that are floatin around in there from the others who have gone before you. It's just water, but the water pictures that change, that new life and the sense that we have a new Lord and so stewardship begins with a personal relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ and therefore we begin at the point of saying that we have a new relationship with God. He is our Master. That is the foundation for all teaching on stewardship.

But point #2 is this and that is that **STEWARDSHIP TRANSFORMS A PROFESSION OF FAITH INTO A FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST.** This is why I believe that this issue is so fundamental and foundational for every Christian. It is the biblical concept of stewardship that becomes a motivational concept in life that will transform a person who makes a profession of faith in Christ into a fully devoted follower of Christ. It's more than being saved. Now I believe in the word saved, it's a biblical word and I understand all of it's implications past, present and future. But there are a lot of people who want to use the word saved to describe simply a past experience that gives them an insurance policy and they come around every Sunday, every once in awhile to check up on the condition of the policy. But it's just a past experience. Yeah, I did that, I got saved! But you see, it's not just being saved, it's living as a steward and living as a steward is coming to the place where I understand that the life that I now have in Christ is a life that is to be lived out in detail every day in light of the fact that all that I am, all that I have and all I ever want is ultimately to be seen in being a follower of Jesus Christ. I love the words of Leonard Carroll who said:

"Nothing in the world is as free as salvation, yet nothing lays such a commanding grasp on life."

It's free, but nothing will so change you as when you understand that what you are and what you have, you have because of the grace of God and in response to grace. It's not just the profession of faith that says I'm saved, it's a professions of faith that results in a transformed life that says that I am now a steward unto God and my life is lived out every day, every part in this concept of stewardship. It's Christ in the details of life. It's Christ as the center of my life. And if you want me to tell you what I think is the most defining difference between the 1st Century church and the 21st Century church it is that the 1st Century church lived with a concept of stewardship waiting for the coming of the Master. And frankly we are so bond by this material, physical world in which we live and all of the attractions of it and all of the distractions of it, that we don't really think about the issues of stewardship and we don't really live with a sense of being ready. God calls us to live ready lives and a part of that is that when you understand what stewardship is then you quit just living with a profession and you begin to become a practicing follower of Christ in every dimension of life. I love the way it's described here. They're living with their waist girded and with their lamps burning. They're doin the right things and it's all because they're living in light of the fact that the Master's coming and whatever they think about doing

and ~~whatever they think~~...wherever they think about going and whatever else may call their attention, the focus keeps coming back to this I wanna be ready to see the Master.

3rd concept, it is **STEWARDSHIP THAT CALLS ME TO CHOOSE SERVICE OVER SELF-INTEREST**. Stewardship is a functional thing. It calls me to choose service over self-interest. There is a temptation and there are rewards in stewardship and one of the temptations in stewardship is to take what God is given to me in life and to make it about my own indulgence; just to have what God has given me, the blessings of God just for me. But you see when stewardship becomes a concept in your life and a principle by which you live you look at everything in light of the fact that it's not just about you and what you want and what you get. You see that was what happened in the lives of the unfaithful stewards. Go back down again and look here at what it says in verse 45, it says:

"But if there's a servant who says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the men servants, maid servants, to eat drink and be merry."

You see this is when somebody just takes the blessings the Master has given and just becomes indulgent. And one of the great crisis of Christianity in this hour is that we have a lot of indulgent Christians. We see all of God's blessings as being about us, but it's not about us and when you begin to see stewardship in life that flows out of your relationship with Christ and becomes transforming in the way that you look at your life and every aspect of it then it not only motivates you, but it functionally becomes a part of your life in such a way that you begin to choose service over self interest in life. I just find that it's easy, it's easy for me, so I'm just gonna confess okay? And if any of you can confess with me I'm grateful, but it's easy to get infected with the self virus...the self virus for what we think about and what we're worried about is a disease that is stimulated by the self-virus and it keeps us from being the people that God would have us to be. All that God wants in my life is related to being a servant. I don't think that it is just sort of coincidental that Jesus chose the term servant, because interestingly enough almost every time Paul began to write a letter to a church he would define himself and call himself the servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. He understood that his whole life was now a stewardship unto God and therefore, Paul, from the moment of the Damascus Road experience no longer lived life for self interest he lived life to become a servant of Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us in Philippians 2: [verse 5]

⁵Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ, ⁶who being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God, ⁷but made himself of no reputation and took on the form of a servant...

And just as Jesus became a servant He desires that we would become servants. But what will help me to functionally become a servant? It's when I see my life in light of stewardship rather than in light of self. You see salvation is not a me thing, salvation is a Master thing and

therefore it's all about living out the life of faith in Christ.

4th concept that I want you to see tonight and that is, that **STEWARDSHIP FOCUSES THE ENERGIES OF MY LIFE ON FAITHFULNESS TO GOD AND AN EAGERNESS TO GIVE MY BEST TO HIM.** When stewardship begins to become a part of my life and my thought process and I really grasp the biblical concept of stewardship then it begins to focus the energies of my life on faithfulness to God and eagerness to give my best to Him. It's a practical thing. Would you agree with me that the most practical thing that you can do at the beginning of each day is to know what the focus is of that day? I mean, isn't...isn't that important to know what am I going to do now and what am I going to do next? I mean, cause if you don't have any focus you can just spend the day wandering around the house. You don't know whether to get dressed, whether to brush your teeth, whether to eat, whether to read the paper, whether to go to work...I mean you're just wandering, you're lost, you're not focused. And what do we tell people all the time? Focus, focus, focus, what about these athletes who are over the right now in Torino, in Italy, what is the key issue when they're in the gate? Focus! Well, that's what stewardship is for the Christian. When I begin to understand that I am a steward in life then that gives focus to my life and the number one focus of my life is to be faithful to Him. What does it say there again in verse 48?

"...For everyone to whom much is given much will be required;..."

I cannot tell you how much this passage of Scripture speaks to me every time I prepare to stand and do what I'm doing with you tonight. God has blessed me in my life to have the privilege to hear, to know and to be blessed by some of the greatest preaching in all of the world and I thank God for that, a rich heritage of preaching and pastors and ministry. I've heard the Word of God from so many people and been blessed. Many of you could say that, but let me tell you all that that does is lift the bar in my life and my heart that I can never stand in a place like this and be trivial and be unprepared and be casual when I preach the Word of God. Why? Because the issue of the heart for me is faithfulness and I don't ever wanna just give something I wanna do my best and it really doesn't matter who or how many or where it's all about being a steward in that moment in life and therefore stewardship allows me to narrow the margins of my life and to focus on living to please God. I love this little poem.

[Leftovers—source unknown]

*Leftovers are such humble things,
We would not serve to a guest,
And yet we serve them to our Lord,
Who deserves the very best.*

*We give to Him leftover time,
Stray minutes here and there,
Leftover cash we give to Him,
Such few coins as we can spare.*

*We give our youth unto the world,
To hatred, lust and strife,
Then in declining years we give to Him,
The remnant of our life.*

Stewardship'll keep you from a life of leftovers. Stewardship'll give you focus and energy and blessing in your walk with God.

The final thing that I want you to see about stewardship tonight is this, stewardship is a beneficial thing, **STEWARDSHIP PROMISES GOD'S FAVOR AND BLESSING IN MY LIFE**. Did you notice here the contrast between the faithful and the unfaithful stewards and did you notice what the Bible said about the Master and those who were faithful? Look back over here in verse 37:

"Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he..."

That is the master.

"...will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them."

I didn't say that, Jesus said that. He said:

"Blessed are the servants whom when the master comes, finds prepared, because he will then gird himself and have them sit down and he will serve them."

The picture here is of Jesus serving those who honor Him. Do you know that when you become a steward in life unto God that the result of that stewardship both in this life and in the life to come is that Jesus begins to serve you. When He knows that He can trust you with everything He's given to you then He in turn begins to attend to the fact that He's gonna be sure that He meets all of your needs and so much more. You see even in heaven it will not be a shame for Jesus to be seen as a servant. He is the Suffering Servant. Now He's the Exalted Lord, but even in heaven there is a sense in which we will follow the example of Christ with the heart of service and therefore the Bible tells us that there is a benefit in being a steward because here in this world I am not only living in His favor, but I am paying forward what is gonna be rewarded in heaven.

You know it's interesting in the world we like to postpone debt. You know you can go out to these furniture companies and you can buy stuff and not pay for it until 2008 or 9 or 10 or 2020, I don't know how long you can go. You just postpone debt, but some day...some day it's gonna catch up with you. But the Bible says God lets us pay forward credit and God lets us as servants and stewards live our lives in such a way that we keep paying forward and the Bible says that when God looks at us one day He will say well done good and faithful servant, enter in to the blessings of this kingdom and He will bring us in and He will sit us down and the Bible says

he will serve. I...I can't really believe that, that is beyond my ability to fully comprehend, but it is the truth of those who live as stewards unto God. So I ask you, are you ready? I would have to say tonight that it is my hearts desire to be able to say with John in the Revelation: [22:20]

...Even so, come Lord Jesus.

Come Lord Jesus, that my life, that my heart, that my all would be lived as a steward unto God.